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A N
A B S T R A C T
O F
M I D W I F R Y,

For the U S E of the

Lying-in Infirmary:

W H I C H

With due Explanations by *Anatomical Preparations, &c.*
the *repeated* Performances of all Kinds of *Deliveries*, on our great
Machine, with the *Ocular Demonstration* of the *Reason* and *Justness*
of the *Rules* to be observed in all *genuine* and true Labours, in the
Lying-in Infirmary, on our *Glass Machine*, makes a complete
Method of teaching *Midwifry*; by giving the *Pupils* the most *exact*
Knowledge of the Art, and perfectly *forming* their Hands, at the
same time, for the safe and *ready Practice* of *Midwifry*.

By Sir RICHARD MANNINGHAM, Knt. M.D. F.R.S.
and of the College of *Physicians*, *London*.

L O N D O N :

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T H E
P R E F A C E.

TH E *Particular of a Child's Passage* into the World, is the *proper Business of Midwifry*; and the real *Boundary* of that Practice and Knowledge.

The *præternatural Bulk or Shape* of a Child, the *wrong Position of the Womb*, or of the Child in it; the *ill Make* of the *Os Sacrum*, or some other of the Bones of the *Pelvis*; and the *false Pains* which often mix with *true Labour Pains*, prove a great *Obstacle* to the Child's being brought with *Ease* into the World; which shews, there is more *Knowledge* necessary for *this Business*, than any one would believe, who had not *applied* themselves to it; and that a Woman is not delivered by *Chance*, or by *boldly running a Hazard*, as some *ignorantly* pretend; but that the *Art of Midwifry* depends on a *firm Foundation*, tho' subject to *Accidents*, as all other *Arts* are.

Now, the *previous Knowledge*, towards the Practice of Midwifry, will take up some Time, and require some Pains; and more still to make a Proficient; for as *Midwifry* is the *Work of the Hands*, it requires *repeated Practice*
to

to make a Person *ready* in that Business, our *Members* not being so ready in *acting*, as our *Minds* are in *perceiving*: Nevertheless, those who imagine, it is sufficient to grow wise by *Practice only*, without the *previous Knowledge* of *Things*, will be much deceived; for he, who is ignorant of *what* is to be done, will be at a great Loss how to produce the *Effect*; much less will he know the *Method of doing it well*; all which plainly shews how necessary it is that *Theory* should *precede Practice*.

As *Theory* ought always to go before *Practice*; to the end that we may proceed *methodically*, we shall begin with the *general Description* and *Knowledge* of the Parts of Women, which concern Midwifry, their *Situation* and *Use*: We shall then proceed to the *general* and *special Knowledge* of *Touching* or *Handling* of Women; and the Knowledge we obtain by the right Manner of Touching or Handling Women with Child, with regard to the Practice of Midwifry, is a Matter of the utmost Consequence, and is indeed a fundamental Part of Knowledge in Midwifry, because it enables us to foresee Events, and prevent ill Ones: It behoves us, therefore, to be perfect Masters of the right Manner of Handling, and of its Use: All Midwives, indeed, pretend to *Touch*; but to very little good Purpose, unless they have been well instructed in the *previous Knowledge* of the *Anatomy* of the *Pelvis* and *Parts contained therein*, and the *various Alterations* of the Parts, after Women are with Child.

Even *Anatomists* and *Surgeons*, tho' well skill'd in every Part of the Human Body, may not, perhaps, have so *duly* consider'd

consider'd the Parts which concern Midwifry, and how they may alter in Time of *Gestation*, and the various Forms of the *Pelvis* and Parts contained within, with regard to the *Practice of Midwifry*, as not to want some Direction: In order, therefore, to be able *properly* to *Touch*, or *Handle* a Woman with Child and in Labour, we must have, I say, an exact and accurate Knowledge of the *natural* and *præternatural* Forms of the *Pelvis*, what Parts are naturally situated in the *Pelvis*, and how they may change their *Situations* and *Forms*: For 'tis the Knowledge we gain by the right *Touching* or *Handling* of Women in Labour, that must direct us in all our Behaviour, with regard to the Delivery, for the Relief both of Mother and Infant; and indeed this Knowledge of *Touching* is so necessary, and of so great Importance and Use, that we really cannot be able certainly to give the least *proper* Directions, that may be of Help to the Delivery, till we are fully *inform'd* by the *Touch*, how *Matters are*, with respect to the *Pelvis*, and the Parts contained therein, with their *particular* Appearances and Situations.

Now, after you have been perfectly instructed in the right Manner and Use of *Touching*, we shall then proceed to the Performance of Deliveries of all Kinds; first, the most natural and easy; and then those which are more difficult; and lastly, to the most difficult and præternatural Deliveries that can possibly happen.

After you are thus sufficiently instructed in the *previous* Knowledge of Things, and Method of performing Deliveries; our great *Machine* will be of singular Use, in making

king you *Proficients* in the Business ; for, as we observ'd before, Midwifry is the *Work* of the *Hands*, and requires *repeated* Practice to make a Person *ready* in that *Business* ; so here, by our *Directions*, and your own careful Practice on the Machine, where every Case that can happen may be *represented*, and *repeated* as often as we see necessary ; you will have the greatest Opportunity of *forming* your Hands for Practice, and informing your *Judgment* at the same Time, in the Manner and Method of operating in all *genuine* and *true* Labours ; and our *Glass Machine* will most clearly convey and confirm our *Directions* and *Rules*, by giving you *ocular* Demonstration of the *Reason* and *Justness* of the *Rules* there laid down ; and to be duly observ'd in performing of *Deliveries* of every Kind. When, therefore, you are thus perfectly informed and habituated to the Manner of Touching or Handling of Women, and thoroughly *experienc'd*, by repeated Deliveries of all Kinds on our Machine, &c. you may then be admitted to deliver in *difficult Cases*, under our *Directions* ; and being so qualified, we secure our Women from all Injuries, which would happen from Pupils, attempting Deliveries, before they are duly inform'd : Now, by this Method of Instruction, join'd to your own Industry and diligent Application, and Practice in the *Lying-in Infirmary*, we apprehend, you will most readily attain the due Knowledge of the Art and Practice of Midwifry, and become Proficients, in a much shorter Time than by any other Method.

And here we must beg Leave to observe, and we doubt not, you will all agree with us, that considering the Circumstances of Women labouring with Child, a most decent and modest Behaviour in every one practising Midwifry, will be absolutely necessary : And also that the Women in Labour
ought

ought always to be treated with all imaginable *Tenderness* and *Humanity*, in regard both to your Words and Actions: And as all *Instruments* used in Midwifry, carry so much Horror along with them, and are for the most Part attended with so much *Mischief*, we have always thought it of the utmost Consequence to substitute a *more safe* and tender Practice in the room of them; and, by an *happy Contrivance*, have effected it, so as you may be enabled, with the judicious Management of the Hand, assisted by our *Invention*, to answer all the *Intentions* of the *Crotchet*, *TIRE*, *TETE*, *Forceps*, &c. without the least Terror to the Woman, or running any *Risque* of injuring either *Mother* or *Child*; whom we know, and 'tis every where confessed, too often suffer greatly by the Use of *Instruments* in Deliveries, even in the most judicious Hands; besides the Terror which always accompanies them: We hope, therefore, fully to convince you, by our *Method*, that there is so little Occasion for the *present, frequent* Use of *Instruments*, that, excepting in a *Case* or *two*, which but *rarely* happen, they ought entirely to be laid aside.

DUSSE's *Forceps*, indeed, is preferable to the *Crotchet*, or MAURICEAU's *Tire Tete*; but as to the *Forceps* itself, those Operators who are fondest of it, don't pretend to use it, but *when the HEAD is FAR ADVANC'D IN THE PASSAGE*; and even then, they acknowledge, the *Mother* is always liable to be *bruised* and much hurt, and oftentimes the Infant too: And in many Cases where the Head presents, they own, the *Forceps* cannot be of any Use, but may do much *Mischief*; as when the *pelvis is distorted*, or is narrower than ordinary, or when the *Head* has been long in the Passage, and the circumjacent Parts are *swollen*; or if the Child be dead, and the Head
be

be not advanc'd *low in the Passage* : Whereas *our Invention* will answer in all these several Circumstances, with the greatest Safety, and much more commodiously, even *where the Forceps is advised*, and can best be used, and this without the least Terror, Danger, or Hurt, either to Mother or Child : We think it therefore far preferable to the *Forceps*, or any other *hitherto known Method* : Because, in all the abovementioned Cases, where the Operators allow the *Forceps* cannot and ought not to be used, *our Invention* will enable us to bring the Child into the World, without Injury either to Mother or Child, being *judiciously* used, as we shall plainly shew, by comparing the Use of the several abovementioned Instruments with *our Invention* : All the Operators allow, that the *Forceps*, when properly used, to bring away a Child, whose *Head* is so large, that it cannot make its Way thro' the Passage, may indeed be brought away by this Instrument, if the Head be *far enough advanc'd* ; tho' by the additional Bulk of the Instrument on each Side of the Child's Head, the *Vagina* will most certainly be press'd very hard, and be liable to be much bruised.

So that a little Experience will soon convince you, how much more preferable our Invention is, where the Work is so readily perform'd, and none of this Hazard is run ; not only in that very Case where their *Forceps* is allow'd to be of Use ; but also in the many different and difficult Cases, which too often happen, where their *Forceps*, as they themselves own, cannot assist them, and for which they have not yet found out any *safe Method*.

A N

A B S T R A C T

O F

M I D W I F R Y.

A Knowledge	{	General	{	of the Parts in Women which concern Midwifry, as	}	What they are? Where situated?
		Distinct		of the	} <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; margin-left: 5px;"> Womb. Vagina or Sheath. Bladder. Gut Rectum. </div>	
Of the Pelvis, or Basin	{	The Bones	{	What?	}	
				Situation?		
				Use?		
				Articulation, or joining?		
				C		of

Of the Pelvis or Basin	The Parts contain'd in it.	{ The Bladder. Womb. Gut Rectum. Secundine. Humours. Fætus.		
	The Variety, as	Deeper.	}	Advantages?
		Broader.		
		Larger.	}	What?
		Flatter.		
		Rounder.	}	Disadvantages?
		More Oval.		
	Difference in the different Sexes.			
	Cavity of the Pelvis—what?			
Largest opening, whence?	{ Not from a Separation in the <i>Os Pubis</i> .			
	{ From a going back of the		} wholly partly.	
	{ Sacrum.			

Of the Womb.

That we may give a clear and distinct Notion of the Womb we shall first treat of the Womb by itself, afterwards jointly with the *Vagina*, or Passage to the Womb.

Substance { Thick.
Solid.

Composition?

State { in { Virgins?
Married Women?
before { being with Child?
after {

Situation { different } Advantages
after being { Disadvan-
with Child. } tages?

Of the Womb. { The *Fundus* after being { forwards.
with Child may be { backwards
turned { to the right. } Disadvantages?
— left. }

The Mouth—What?

External Form—What?

Joining—How?

Ligaments { What?
Use?

Orifice, on all Sides joined to the *Vagina* or Sheath.

Cavity { What?
Neck }

Of the Womb.	Dilatation	Where?
		Advantages?
		Disadvantages?
	Contraction	What? Use?
	Why fallſly call'd <i>the internal Mouth of the Womb</i> , thence Confuſion?	
	Of the Thickneſs?	

Of the Vagina or Sheath.

Vagina	What?	
	Mouth—What?	
	Subſtance	full of Wrinkles, and thick ſet with many Folds. —Why?
		eafily extending
		Length-ways } Breadth-ways }
	ſmooth } generally moiſtened with a glutinous ſlippery } Matter.	
	Contraction Dilatation Connexion	What? Use?

Of the *Secundines*, or *After-Birth*.

Secundine { Substance? — Vascular, full of Veins and Arteries.
Shape?
Number?
Situation? generally adhering to the Bottom of the Womb.
Vessels, { two Arteries } twisted like a Rope.
 { one Vein }

	Chorion, in which are innumerable Vessels.	{ Situation? Use? Connexion?
Membranes	Amnios	{ Situation? Vessels? fewer than in the Chorion.
	Use? to	{ contain } Waters. { secrete } { preserve the Chorion.
	Allantois	is it to be found in the human Body?
	whence call'd frequent in Brutes	{ Substance. Situation. Use.

Umbilical } Insertion of the { Vein.
Rope } Arteries.

D

Of

Of Handling a Woman.

What is Touching ?

How Women ought to be touch'd ?

When necessary to touch ?

What is to be
known by the
Touch ?

First, Whether a Woman be really with Child, or no ?

Secondly, Whether the Time of Birth be near, or not.

Thirdly, Whether a Woman with Child be taken with true Child-bed Pains, or not.

Fourthly, Whether the Woman seiz'd with the Pains, the Birth will be easy, or difficult.

Fifthly, Whether the Infants are well or ill situated for Birth.

Sixthly, How the Woman in Labour, or the Infant, are to be help'd, and what is to be done to that end ?

Seventhly, Whether the Birth of the Woman in Labour, is to be promoted before the usual Time, or not.

At what Time a Woman in Labour may most conveniently be touch'd, whether before, in the Time of, or after the Pains ?

How the After-burthen is to be brought forth ?

How

How ill-situated Infants are to be turned, or may be drawn out by the Feet?

What Things are to be ready at Hand, that the Midwife may perform her Office well?

Of a Natural Birth.

The Mother and Child must be free from all Infirmities, which hinder the Birth.

Of the Child is required	{	Age	}	What?
		Strength		
		Situation		
	{	Exclusion	}	by voluntary and true Pains without the Assistance of Art.

Of the Mother	{	Shape	}	What?
		Condition		
		Strength		

Signs of the Birth coming on	{	Pains in the Reins with Throws coming of their own accord by Intervals.	}	
		Swelling of the Belly fallen		
		Incontinency		} of Urine.
		Suppression		
		Mouth of the Womb open.		
		Formation of the Waters.		

Signs

	Pains in the Region of the Loins and Reins increased.
Signs of an almost approaching Birth	Pulse in the Wrist { frequent full. high.
	Flushing in the Face.
	Reachings.
	Mouth of the Womb open.

Signs of approaching Birth.	{	The Mouth of the Womb still more open.
		A greater Formation of the Waters.
		Pains at the joining of the Os Sacrum and Pubis.
		Tremblings with ^{out} Coldness
		The Shews.

To promote the Labour { A proper Situation of the Body.
Emollient Ointments.
Cordials.
Medicines } evacuating the Belly.
 } irritating the Womb.

Of the Womb of Big-Bellied Women well placed ?

What Things to be ready at hand, that the Midwife may perform her Office well ?

The great Mischiefs arising from too strong Pains in the Beginning of Labour, and the putting of Women too soon upon Labour ?

Now, tho' the Labour in the Beginning be natural, and promises an easy and happy Event, nevertheless it often happens to prove otherwise, even after the Membranes containing the Waters break of themselves, and the Mouth of the Womb be sufficiently open for the Head of the Infant to be crowned : It ought therefore to be a Caution to all Practisers, not absolutely to promise too much, lest the following Difficulties surprize them in the End, to their great Confusion and Disgrace.

The Navel-string entangled.

The Navel-string too short.

The Head too large.

The Obstruction from the Os Coccygis.

The Shoulders too large.

Dropfical Belly, or Breast.

Dropfical Head.

Want of Pains.

The exact distinguishing
Signs of these Cases ?

How to proceed in these Cases to perfect the Delivery ?

E

Of

Of Tying the Navel-String, and excluding the Secundines.

The Navel-String of new-born Infants is to be tied, and the After-Birth is to be brought away without delay, by introducing the Fingers into the Mouth of the Womb immediately after the Birth of the Child, to keep the Mouth open, that even the Hand, if necessary, may be easily introduc'd :—Why?

What is the Midwife's Business after ? Mother ?
the Delivery towards the § Infant ?

After these previous Instructions, *natural* Deliveries are often to be repeated on our great *Machine*, in order to form the Pupil's Hands for Practice ; and then they will be admitted to deliver Women in natural Labours, in the *Lying-in Infirmary*, under our Directions.

Of

Of a difficult or unnatural Birth.

A difficult Birth proceeds from	the Mother's	Age	{ too young. too old.	
		Body	{ ill form'd.	
			{ too	{ fat.
				{ lean.
			{ distemper'd.	
		Womb.	{ distemper'd.	
			{ too much oblique	{ forwards. backwards.
				{ on the } right. left.
		Sinking of the Spirits.		
		Weakness.		
	the Child's	{ The Waters coming away too soon.		
		{ Weakness.		
		Body	{ too big.	
			{ ill shap'd.	
		{ ill Situation.		
		{ Entangled Rope.		

They

They can scarce undergo a hard Labour who have	{ Cold Sweats.
	{ Convulsions without coming to their Senses in the Intervals.
	{ Extreme Weakness.
	{ Lower Parts of the Belly } tight and painful. inflamed.

A weak Child is known by	{ A flow } languid } Birth.
	{ Too great a Flux of Blood.
	{ Languid Strength of the Mother.
	{ The Pulse in the Navel-String.

A dead Child is known by	{ Flabby Breasts,
	{ Frequent Faintings of the Mother.
	{ Stench of the Waters.
	{ Coldness of the Belly and Sides.
	{ Weight in the Womb.
	{ Softness of the Head,

The

A dead Child is known by { The *Dissolution* of the *Cuticle* of the Child's Head, or other Parts.
The Coming away of the *Meconium* without any apparent Cause.

The ill Situation of the Child is known by { The Pains not rightly bearing down.
Too slow Pains.
The Driveling of the Waters.
The Touch.

The Mouth of the Womb itself ill-situated, is known by the Touch, proceeding either from { An Exulceration.
A Scar.
A hardened Gland. Cautions?
An Obstruction of the Vessels and Ligaments.

Why the Birth is hindered by the ill Formation of the Pelvis ?

Variety of Pelvis's in different Bodies.— What ?

How to enlarge the Pelvis.

Always examine before the Child is fallen down into the Pelvis. Why ?

A difficult Birth proceeding from *general* or *special* Diseases.

—from the ill turning of Infants in general,

The Feet
Face
Neck
Ear } presenting.

Navel-string entangled.

—an Infant's coming with its Face upwards.

—Navel-string foremost.

—from an Infant's coming with a Hand, Elbow, or Shoulder foremost.

A difficult Birth from Infants situated a-cross.

—from the too great Firmness of the Membranes which contain the Humours, or the Placenta offering in the Passage, or from dead Infants.

A difficult Birth from Infants too large, or the Head too large, &c.

—from a Disease, or any other Fault in the Womb.

Vagina, Bladder, Gut Rectum, &c.

Inconveniencies.

How remedied?

A difficult Birth from Infants presenting their Belly together with the Navel-string.

— from Infants presenting their Back.

— from Infants offering with their Feet foremost.

— from Twins

— from Twins ill turned.

— from ill and shifting Pains.

Inconveniencies.

How remedied?

The *distinguishing* Signs of True and False Pains. What?

The great Obliquities of the Womb Four-fold, viz.

The Womb hanging too much forwards.

— being pressed too much against the Back-bone.

— lying too much oblique on either Side.

The Ignorance of the *Obliquities* of the Womb, of most fatal Consequence?

The Reality of the *Obliquities* plainly prov'd?

Their distinguishing Signs?

How the *Obliquities* may be rectify'd, and the Woman safely deliver'd of her Child?

After these further Instructions, the *repeated* Performance of *præternatural* Deliveries of all Kinds, on our great *Machine*, and demonstrating the *Reason* and *Justness* of our *Rules* on the Glass Machine, will make the Pupils very ready in their Business, and perfectly form their Hands to practise in all difficult and *præternatural* Labours, and at the same time inform their Judgments, in the Manner and Method of operating, in all *genuine* Labours, in the Lying-

Lying-in Infirmary, till they are compleatly qualify'd for the safe and judicious Practice of the Art of Midwifry.

N. B. If any of the abovemention'd *Obliquities* of the Womb be great, or the Orifice of the Womb strongly pressed against the Bones, the Midwife ought to send presently for the best Assistance, and in the mean time carefully to prevent the *Head* of the Child from falling down into the *narrow Cavity* of the Pelvis, before the Orifice of the Womb is sufficiently open, for the Head to advance: Why? And how to be done?

The great Mischief which may happen, for want of this Care,—
What?

If a Man-Midwife is not to be had, then the Midwife must carefully proceed as we have directed, in order to *deliver the Woman*; but tho' the Midwife should, on this Emergency, succeed ever so well, I would by no Means advise her to undertake these extreme Difficulties, where a Man-Midwife can possibly be had in Time, and the Moment she perceives the Danger, she ought to send for the best Help. Why?

Of the Birth of Monsters,—The Signs, What? A Man Midwife always necessary. Why?

When a Man or Woman Midwife is called to the Assistance of a Woman in Labour, the following Things are dilligently to be observed, *viz.* That, without Delay, Examination be made by the *Touch*, that from thence may be known the true Situation of the Mouth of the Womb, *viz.*

Whether

{ In the Middle of the Pelvis.

| In the Fore-part near the Os Pubis.

Whether it is situated { In the Hind-Part near the Vertebrae or Os Sacrum.

| In the Right or Left Side.

And how wide the Mouth is opened, and what Part of the Child presents.

Now, if the Crown of the Child's Head is perceived alone, and the Mouth of the Womb is situated over the Pelvis, or in the Pelvis, and the Membranes with the Waters push forward, then there is no Need of Help ; and until the Pains cease, or are slow, there is no Need that the Woman be wearied with labouring, but the Force of Pains coming of their own Accord may be securely waited for ; for this promises a *true, natural Labour*.

But if the Mouth of the Womb is placed higher, it is a Sign of a large Head, or small Pelvis ; on the other Hand, if it descends lower, it is a Sign of a small Head, or large Pelvis ; this latter promises an easier Birth than the former. How to behave ?

If the Mouth of the Womb being direct in the Pelvis, neither the Head, or Buttocks, can be touched, and nothing besides the Waters is to be perceived in the Passage, it betokens a difficult Labour, for the Infant is situated a-crofs ; wherefore just after the breaking of the Waters, the Head is to be sought for and brought into the Passage, if easy to be done, otherwise the Child must be drawn out by its Feet : And sometimes 'tis absolutely necessary even to break the Membranes, and go for the Feet. Why ?

G

If

If the Mouth of the Womb tends in a direct Line into the middle of the Pelvis, but instead of the Head, one Hand, a Foot, Knee, Arm, the Navel-String, or a Hand together with the Feet presents, it is a Sign of Danger, and the best Help ought to be at hand.

If it is perceivable by the Touch, *that the Infant is as yet situated too high*, and the Mother is not stirred up to profit by the Pains, there must be no Delay, for without immediate Assistance, both Mother and Infant will perish.

If the Mouth of the Womb is not placed in the middle of the Pelvis, but is too much turn'd in the Fore-part towards the Os Pubis or Share-Bone, or Hind-part towards the Sacrum, or on the Side towards either Hip, then the Danger is great; according as it is more or less declined, and the Mother must be speedily and judiciously assisted. How?

If the Mouth of the Womb lies higher, or is pressed stronger upon this or that Bone, then the Delivery is not to be expected from Nature. Why?

Whether the Womb is situated right, or more or less oblique, and the Membranes are broke, if any Limb, as a Hand, Foot, &c. be excluded, the Infant must be presently drawn out by the Feet.

If the Womb is as yet situated too high, and the Membranes not broke, and the Pains *come on apace without Intermission*, great Care must be taken to support the Womb, lest the *Womb*, together with the Infant be forc'd into the narrow Cavity of the Pelvis. Why? How to be done?

In the following Cases especially, I would advise *Operators* and Midwives, to send early for the Assistance of some skilful Man-Midwife or Physician; but if such is not to be had, let them then proceed

ceed with the greatest Caution, and to the best of their Skill, agreeable to the Rules we have given in each particular Case, for the Preservation of the Woman and the Infant, *viz.*

If Women with Child have a *Fever* or a *Fev'rish Disorder*, who, tho' they are often afflicted with labour-like Pains, occasion'd by the Fever, great Caution should be used not to provoke or *stir up those Pains*, or *bring on Labour*, lest you endanger the Life of both Mother and Child, but sending for the best Advice, keep the Woman in the mean time, as quiet as may be. How to distinguish those Pains from true Labour Pains ?

If the Child remains too high, and no Profit is perceived from strong Pains.

If the Mouth of the Womb is greatly oblique, and cannot easily be touch'd, and that in Part only.

If the Mouth of the Womb is oblique, and press'd strongly on any of the Bones.

If the Mouth of the Womb is *hard*, and not *sufficiently open*, and *Floodings* or *Convulsions* come on.

If the Woman is weak, and not able with her Pains (though the Womb and Child are well situated for Birth) to advance the Birth.

If the Waters are come away, and the Child does not soon follow.

If the Woman in Labour is crooked in any Part, for often some one of the Bones of the Pelvis is mishapen too, which may occasion a very difficult Labour.

So likewise if the Woman with Child or in Labour, has any *Dis-temper* of Body, or if the *Vagina*, *Womb*, *Bladder*, or *Intestine*, be any Way disorder'd.

If

If the After-Burthen does not come away soon after the Child is born, it either adheres or sticks too much to the Womb, or the Mouth of the Womb is closed too much, and the best Assistance must forthwith be sought for, to prevent the fatal Consequence of the Womb's being hurt, by an unskilful bringing away of the After-Birth.

Of MISCARRIAGES, *and the Manner of treating* WOMEN GOING WITH CHILD.

Of the Manner of treating WOMEN IN CHILD-BED

Of the Manner of treating CHILDREN IN THE MONTH.

A Single

A S I N G L E

LECTURE in MIDWIFRY,

ON THE

GLASS MACHINE;

S H E W I N G

How *Women with Child*, their *Parents*, or other *discreet Persons*, may form a right Judgment of the *Skilfulness* or *Unskilfulness* of Midwives, and of a *true, natural Birth*, and the principal Causes of a *difficult One*.

IF *Women with Child*, their *Husbands*, *Parents*, or *Friends* about them, knew what Difference there is between a *skilful* and *unskilful Midwife*, they would be very cautious how they put their Trust in such, who are not duly qualified for the Performance of their Business; since the one by her Assistance may contribute to the Health, and save the Life of the Mother and Infant; while the other, for want of due Knowledge, or thro' Neglect, may be greatly prejudicial to both.

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I would, therefore, advise all *Parents* and other *discreet Persons*, to obtain such a *previous Knowledge* of the *Pelvis*, or Bones composing the *Basin* through which the Infant passes in its Birth, and of a *true natural Labour*, and of the most *general* and *principal Causes* of a *difficult Birth*, that they may be enabled, *presently*, in the *very Beginning* of *Labour*, to judge themselves, whether the Woman is to be delivered by *Nature*, or the Help of *Art* ; and to form a right Judgment of the *Skilfulness* or *Unskilfulness* of the Midwife, from her Words, Actions, and Behaviour towards the Woman in Labour ; so that if she be found ignorant, better Help may be forthwith sought for : But if, on the contrary, she approves herself skilful and prudent, a mutual Confidence may then take Place, and the *Midwife* be thereby better enabled to perform her Work, with great Calmness and Safety, to the Benefit and Satisfaction of all Parties.

IN order to make a right Judgment of the SKILFULNESS or UNSKILFULNESS of *Midwives*, of a *true, natural Birth*, and of the *principal Causes* of a *difficult Birth*, (having first obtained the above-mentioned previous Knowledge on the *Glass Machine*, &c.) I would advise *Parents*, and other *discreet Persons*, by all means, *first of all*, that they strictly observe, whether the Midwife, after a short Examination, does *try* the Woman in Labour *by the Touch* immediately.

If she neglects this, it is intolerable, and the *most certain Sign* of *Ignorance*, commonly proceeding from Sloth or Pride, as if, tho' she had never *tried*, she knew the Matter well enough ; tho' without this, she must be altogether ignorant of the State of Things, or have no *Knowledge* or *Fear* of an *oblique Womb*.

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The Woman being tried by the *Touch*, the Midwife is to gain her Knowledge by that Means of the *Situation* of the *Womb*, and what may follow thence.

If, therefore, any one asks an Account of her, she ought plainly to tell them the *Place of the Mouth of the Womb*; whether it be situated *in*, or *above the Middle of the Pelvis*, or *before the Offa Pubis* or *Share Bone*, or *backwards* towards the *Vertebræ of the Loins* or *Os Sacrum*, or in the *right* or *left Side*: If the Midwife *equivocates* in this Matter, and endeavours to hide her Ignorance, you must send for better Help.

If the Midwife says the Mouth of the Womb is seated over the Middle of the *Pelvis*, or the Bones call'd the *Basin*, *open*, she may also shew *how much it is open*, and *what offers itself first in the Passage*, or whether the *Waters* are *protuberant* or *swelling*; for, if the Waters are not protuberant, or do not *form* and press forwards with the Pains, they are then *false Pains*, and she ought by no Means to *stir up the Woman to Labour*; if she does, 'tis a certain Sign of Ignorance.

If the Midwife says the *Crown of the Infant's Head* is seated, alone, in the *Passage of the Mouth of the Womb*, and the Mouth of the Womb is above or in the *Pelvis*, there is no Need of working, but she is only to wait till Nature, by the Force of Pains, excites the Woman to Labour; there is no Danger now in staying, all Things will go well till the Pains come on, which, till they cease, or are dull, there is no Need for the Woman to be tired or urged to Labour, but she may securely expect the Force of Pains: FOR THIS IS A TRUE NATURAL BIRTH; all the following are more or less difficult and unnatural.

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If the Midwife says the Womb is placed above the Middle of the *Pelvis*, she also must tell whether it is seated *higher* or *lower*; if higher, it is an Argument of a great Head, or a small *Pelvis*; on the contrary, if she says it is sunk lower, it is a Sign of a small Head, or a large *Pelvis*, and the *latter* promises an easier Birth than the *former*.

If the Midwife says the Womb is placed in the Middle of the *Pelvis*, and the *Crown* of the Head is not felt in it: On the contrary, if the Head offers itself *obliquely*, or with the *Face* first, or the *Navel-String*, or a *Foot* comes aside of the Head, *Danger is at hand*, and the best Help must be sought for, lest the Midwife should not be able safely to perform her Work.

If the Midwife says the *Mouth of the Womb* tends directly towards the Middle of the *Pelvis*, but instead of the Head, only *one Hand*, or *Foot*, a *Knee*, an *Elbow*, the *Navel-String*, or *Hands* and *Feet together* offer themselves, the *Case is dangerous*, unless duly assisted, *immediately after the Waters are broke forth*; therefore let the best Assistance be timely at hand.

If the Midwife says the Infant's *Breech* offers itself first, and the Mouth of the Womb be conveniently seated over the Middle of the *Pelvis*, there is generally no Danger, since *stronger Pains* will perform the Work.

If the Midwife, *after the Touch*, says the *Infant is seated too high* yet, and cannot tell *how*, or in *what Place*, the *Mouth of the Womb* is placed,

placed, or what offers itself first, saying it is too soon yet, we must wait till the Womb and the Infant fall down lower, before these Things can be known; and if, in the MEAN TIME, she stirs up the Woman to Labour by her Pains, there is then no room for Delay, the Midwife is ignorant, and endeavours to hide it, for here the Mouth of the Womb is suspended high, because the Womb is seated obliquely, or the Infant offers itself ill-turned in the Womb, and requires the best Assistance in the Beginning; for the least Delay may expose both Mother and Infant to the Danger of Death.

If the Midwife says, the *Mouth of the Womb* is not seated over the Middle of the *Pelvis*, but *forwards* to the *Os Pubis* or *Share Bone*, or *backwards* towards the *Os Sacrum*, or is turned too much on *either Side*, then *Danger is at hand*, and no Time must be lost in sending for the best Assistance, especially if she says *it is placed against this or that Part high and very fast*.

Whether the *Womb* is *rightly* placed, or more or less *oblique*, if when the *Membranes* are broke, and the *Waters* flow, any Member, either *Hand* or *Foot*, &c. is excluded, the Infant is presently to be brought forth without Delay, the longer the Delay, the greater the Danger.

If soon after the *Membranes* are broke, and the *Waters* passed off, the *Infant* does not follow, *Danger is at hand*.

If a Midwife, whilst the *Womb* is SUSPENDED HIGH, and BEFORE the MEMBRANES ARE BROKE, omits to *discover the Danger*, 'tis a *Sign of Ignorance*, or *great Neglect*; and if the MOUTH of the WOMB, TOGETHER WITH THE CHILD'S HEAD, is now fallen down into the NARROW CAVITY OF THE BONES, and VIOLENT PAINS COME ON WITHOUT SUCCESS, then, not a *Moment of Time* is to be lost; for it seldom happens that those Midwives know how to
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clear themselves of the Danger which comes on, (thro' this Ignorance or great Neglect) who knew not how, *seasonably*, to *foresee* and *avoid it*.

If the *After-Birth* does not come away soon after the Child is born, it either adheres too much to the Womb, or the Mouth of the Womb is, by the Neglect of the Midwife, suffer'd to close too much; and better Assistance must forthwith be sought for, to prevent the fatal Consequence of the Womb's being *hurt* by an *unskilful separating of the After-Birth*, or a *drawing down of the Womb* along with the *After-Birth*: For many Women have *lost their Lives*, or became *barren*, or have *suffer'd* many and *grievous Infirmities* all their Lives long, only from the *unskilful separating of the After-Birth*, when it has adher'd more than ordinary.



T H E

T H E
INSTITUTION *and* OECONOMY
O F T H E

Charitable Infirmary

F O R T H E

*Relief of Poor Women labouring of Child, and
during their Lying-in. 1739.*

IT is ordered by the Trustees of the said Charity, that the following Particulars relating to the Management, Order, &c. of the said Charity, be fairly printed, and sent to the Subscribers, and other charitably-dispos'd Persons, *viz.*

Several Persons of Quality and Distinction taking into their charitable Consideration the many poor Women who suffer under various and great Illnesses, and who very often perish in labouring of Child, together with their Infants, for want of *timely* and *skilful Assistance* in their Labour, and proper Care and Necessaries during
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their Lying-in ; have been pleased to subscribe the several Sums as against their respective Names in the *Subscription Roll*, annually, during Pleasure, for House-Rent, and providing proper Bedding, Necessaries, Nurses, and Medicines, for all such poor Women who shall be taken into the said Infirmary, a few Days before the End of their Time ; who may there be *delivered and attended, Gratis* : Hoping this may, in some measure, prevent these Misfortunes, and also afford a good *Opportunity* for the *due and proper* teaching the *Art and Practice* of *Midwifry*, so much wanted.

The COPY of the PAPER publish'd in the Daily Advertiser, by a Benefactor to the Foundling Hospital, setting forth the Benefit and Usefulness of this charitable Undertaking, viz.

‘ THE Royal Charter, establishing an Hospital for the Maintenance and Education of exposed and deserted young Children, gives an universal Satisfaction and Pleasure to the Publick, and the many noble and worthy Persons concern'd in the Management thereof, puts it out of all Doubt, that it will in Time become the Glory of our Nation.

‘ The little Hospital for the Relief and Assistance of poor Women labouring of Child, and during their Lying-in, tho' its Foundation at present is but small, yet, since it has also for its Support and Encouragement many noble and worthy Personages of both Sexes, there is, I think, great Likelihood of its going on with Success ; especially as the Trustees thereof are so careful in the prudent and decent Management of it, which is indeed no small Recommendation

' mendment of the Undertaking : And as this Charity is in a *peculiar*
 ' Manner adapted to the Relief and Benefit of the *Female Sex*, and
 ' may, in what *regards* the *better instructing* of our *Midwives*, ex-
 ' tend its good Consequences even to the *noblest* and *best* of Families ;
 ' I should therefore think it not at all unlikely to see the *Ladies* so far
 ' interest themselves therein, as to become in a manner the very *Guar-*
 ' *dians* of this *beneficial* Undertaking, appropriated to the Relief of the
 ' indigent *married Women*.

' Tho' I freely confess, I am not without great Hopes of one Day
 ' seeing proper Measures taken by the *Legislature* for establishing an
 ' Hospital of this Kind, even for all Sorts of Women *promiscuously* ;
 ' for amongst the unhappy Wretches of ill Fame, there are doubt-
 ' less many real Objects of Compassion, who, I think, are as pro-
 ' perly the Care and Concern of the *Legislature*, as a profligate Child
 ' is that of its *Parents* : And when such *National* Hospital shall be
 ' erected, this little *temporary* one, may properly be laid aside, or added
 ' to it, by reason the *publick* Hospital will be a Reception for all *Sorts*
 ' of poor Women with Child ; but 'till there is a *national* one erected,
 ' it seems highly reasonable and prudent, that this little *temporary* Hof-
 ' pital should continue for the Reception of the indigent *married Wo-*
 ' *men* only.

' The prudent Care observed in the Management of the *Trustees* in
 ' general, and the modest Caution in publishing a *Compendium* of
 ' Midwifry, and of the *Diseases of Women*, in the *Latin* Tongue, for
 ' the Use of Students in Physick ; the composing *proper* Heads of In-
 ' structions for the Use of *Midwives*, in *English* ; the judicious and de-
 ' cent Care taken to prepare a *Machine* for giving Pupils their *first* In-
 ' structions in the Practice of Midwifry ; (so that the Women are no
 ' ways exposed to raw and unskilful Persons, or run the least Hazard)
 ' are all of them *strong Marks* of a general determined Design of *con-*
 ' *ducting* this *laudable* Undertaking with the utmost Modesty and Pru-
 ' dence.

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‘ Having lately read over the *Preface* to the *Latin Compendium* of
 ‘ Midwifry, &c. which I thought gave a very good Account of the
 ‘ *Usefulness* of the Hospital for *Lying-in Women* ; and believing it might
 ‘ be agreeable to many an *English* Reader, and perhaps a Means to pro-
 ‘ mote the Good of this *little Hospital*, by making it more publick, I
 ‘ take the Liberty of *translating* it, and heartily wish it may have the
 ‘ same Effect on many others as it had on me, who, tho’ a *considerable*
 ‘ Benefactor to that noble Hospital for the exposed and deserted young
 ‘ Children, shall, nevertheless, give my Assistance towards the Sup-
 ‘ port of this beneficial Charity ; and, I doubt not, others will do so
 ‘ too.

*The Preface to Sir Richard Manningham’s Latin Compen-
 dium of Midwifry, Women’s and Children’s Diseases,
 English’d, viz.*

‘ **T**HE charitable Undertaking for the Assistance of poor *Women*
 ‘ *labouring of Child*, and providing them with Necessaries during
 ‘ their *Lying-in*, lately set up, and encouraged by several of the Nobi-
 ‘ lity and Gentry of both Sexes, the Reverend the Clergy, and some of
 ‘ the most eminent Physicians of this City, affording me a proper
 ‘ Opportunity of *duly teaching* the *Art and Practice* of *Midwifry*,
 ‘ hath given the Occasion of my publishing this Compendium ; which
 ‘ is design’d as a *Plan* for the future Instruction of those Students in
 ‘ Physick who shall become my Pupils, and which I hope to make
 ‘ useful at present, and as Time shall serve may make it *more perfect* ;
 ‘ though, as it is, I doubt not, ’twill be of some Service ; for the A-
 ‘ phorisms every where added, I believe, will be found to contain the
 ‘ most *considerable* Precepts relating both to the *Practice* of *Midwifry*,
 ‘ and the *Cure* of *Womens* and *Childrens Diseases*.

‘ It has often, indeed, been Matter of Surprize to me, as well as
 ‘ many others, that in this our great and *opulent* City, an Hospital for
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' taking Care of exposed and *deserted young Children*, and *poor Women*
 ' *labouring of Child*, has been thus long neglected; but since his *Ma-*
 ' *jefty* has been most graciously pleased to encourage that noble and tru-
 ' ly-pious Design of erecting an Hospital for *deserted young Children*, and
 ' also to grant his *Royal Charter* for the same; and seeing the prime
 ' Nobility and Gentry of the Land have condescended to become the
 ' Governors and Guardians of this intended Hospital, 'tis not in the
 ' least to be doubted but it will soon be completed by voluntary Be-
 ' nefactions, (such is our natural Compassion) and become an Hospital
 ' of the greatest Importance, both in a *Religious* and a *Civil View*;
 ' and may prevent *innumerable Murders*, and daily add to the *Strength*
 ' and *Riches* of our Nation.

' Our little Hospital for the Assistance and Care of *poor Women*
 ' *labouring of Child*, and during their *Lying-in*, has its Praises too; and
 ' may be a Means of saving the Lives of many *poor distressed Mothers*,
 ' and their *tender Offspring*, just entering into the World in their weak-
 ' est and most helpless Condition: And though the Foundation of this
 ' Hospital at present is but small, yet I trust it will receive a great In-
 ' crease from the good Example of so many worthy Personages al-
 ' ready concerned in its Support; and as it is an Undertaking well
 ' approved of, and every way decent, just, and laudable in itself, and
 ' may soon become a proper and *constant Nursery* for the future *teach-*
 ' *ing* of the *Art and Practice* of *Midwifry*: A Science of no small
 ' Account, and which has indeed, in all Ages, been the Study even of
 ' the most learned Physicians, though the Practice of it has best suc-
 ' ceeded in this last Age; since the Women, who to provide the bet-
 ' ter for their own and Children's Safety, have admitted the Assistance
 ' of both Sexes; and the Men being more skilful in *Anatomy*, and
 ' better disposed to find out Help in unforeseen Cases, are therefore
 ' more capable of bringing it to a greater Perfection.

' I should therefore hope the *young Physicians* would hereafter more
 ' generally apply themselves to the *Practice* of *Midwifry*, as well as
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' the Study ; especially since the Means of obtaining that Knowledge
 ' is now come home to them ; and as they, as Physicians, are properly
 ' qualify'd for relieving the many *complicated* Illnesses which do often
 ' accompany the Diseases of Women going with Child, and in Child-
 ' bed. It is, I think, especially necessary for such young Physicians
 ' who intend to reside in the Country ; though it may not perhaps be
 ' thought altogether so *generally* necessary in this City, which is so well
 ' provided with prudent and learned Physicians, whose Advice may at
 ' all Times so easily be had.

' And here indeed I cannot but observe, that the *Women them-*
 ' *selves*, and *those about them*, are often much to blame, in neglecting
 ' to send for *proper* Advice in the *various* Illnesses which may and *of-*
 ' *ten do* accompany their Pregnancy ; under a *mistaken* Notion, that
 ' nothing can be done for them till after they are brought-to-bed ;
 ' or, that being brought-to-bed, those Disorders will be removed of
 ' course : On the contrary, unless they are altogether owing to the
 ' Pregnancy, they do very much add to the *Pain* and *Difficulty* of the
 ' *Labour* itself, and too often become fatal in the End ; whereas,
 ' were these Disorders properly treated *before the Labour comes on*, the
 ' *Labour* would then be *less painful* and *difficult*, and many Lives
 ' would be *saved*, which now are *lost*, through this *mistaken Notion* and
 ' *fatal Neglect*.

' As hitherto the *due Knowledge* of the *Practice* of Midwifry could
 ' not easily be obtained without going into *foreign* Countries, and as
 ' that suited the Affairs and Circumstances of few ; so it could not
 ' reasonably be expected that our Women Midwives especially, should
 ' be so properly and fully qualify'd as they ought, for the skilful
 ' Performance of their Business ; on which Account, 'tis greatly to be
 ' feared, many of the *better Sort of* Women, as well as the *meaner*,
 ' have greatly suffer'd in labouring of Child, through the almost una-
 ' voidable *Insufficiency* of the Knowledge of *many* of our Midwives :
 ' But having now proper Opportunities of Instruction, they will, I
 ' think

‘ think, have no Excuse for their *future* Ignorance ; and it is to be hoped, in Time, for their own and others Sakes, they will all of them be duly and properly qualified for the skilful Performance of their Business ; and then, both Rich and Poor, will greatly reap the Advantage of this *particular* Benefit of the charitable Undertaking lately set up, and future Generations will have great Reason to bless the charitable Promoters of a Work productive of so much Good.

‘ Complaints having been made, and not without Reason, of some *Inconveniences* happening in the *Womens Hospitals abroad*, with regard to the *Instruction* of Pupils in Midwifry ; I have therefore, to prevent the Occasion of such like Complaints among us, prepared a *Machine* for the Performance of Deliveries of all kinds, by Means of a Contrivance made on the Bones or *Skeleton* of a Woman, with an *artificial Matrix* ; whereby all the *Inconveniences* which might otherwise happen to Women from Pupils practising *too early* on *real* Objects, will be *entirely* prevented ; and all Pupils become thereby, in a great Measure, *Proficients in the Business*, before they attempt a *real Delivery*. By the same *Contrivance* also is shewn, the *natural* Situation of the *Fœtus* and *Matrix*, and all the *various præternatural* Situations of each, (from some of which proceed the most *painful* and *perilous* Labours) and the safest and most effectual Methods of rectifying all these Difficulties, and perfecting the Delivery.

THE charitable Subscriptions for the Maintenance of poor Women during their Month of Lying-in, are annual, during Pleasure.

Every Subscriber may recommend, within the Year of their subscribing, a Number of poor Objects in the Proportion of Two Guineas each Object.

But each Subscriber is desired to send Two Guineas with every poor Object they shall please to recommend in the *first Year* of their subscribing ; by reason *every* Subscriber's *first Subscription* is to be applied to the Payment of House-Rent, and providing Furniture for the poor Objects.

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Each Subscriber may sign the *Subscription-Roll*, and will be waited on with the said Roll on Notice sent to the said Infirmary ; and the Treasurer's Receipt will be given for each Subscription.

All Women with Child who shall come, or be recommended by others *not Subscribers*, must send or bring Two Guineas, to be paid to the *Officer* of the House, for their Maintenance during their Month of Lying-in, before they are admitted; and give a proper Certificate, setting forth the Character and Place of Abode of the Woman to be taken in ; and in case she is detained longer, by Illness or Accident, the House must be paid after the Rate of Half a Guinea a Week more.

All poor Women offering themselves, giving a proper Account of their Character and Abode, will be taken in *gratis*, as far as the *surplus* Subscription will allow, after the Expences of House-Rent, &c. are deducted.

Each Subscriber sending in a Woman, is desir'd to send a Note, with the Name of the Person, *viz.*

I recommend the Bearer as a proper Object of Charity to be taken into the Lying-in Infirmary, pursuant to the Proposals, &c.

For the Two Guineas mention'd, the Women are delivered by the *Midwife* of the Apartment, and are provided with Necessaries, Nursing and Medicines during their Month of Lying-in ; and in difficult and dangerous Cases, *the Physician delivers and attends gratis.*

Accounts are settled Monthly, and audited Quarterly, by the Trustees ; and all the Proceedings will be sent to each Subscriber and Benefactor yearly. The Subscription-Roll and Books of Accompts may at all Times be inspected by Subscribers and Benefactors.

N. B. It oftentimes happens, through various Accidents and Illnesses, that poor Women with Child, for want of *proper Advice*, and *timely*

timely Assistance, do suffer very much in their Labours and Lyings-in, and thereby become altogether incapable of looking after, or working for the future Subsistence of their poor Families : In Compassion therefore to such poor Objects, and to make this Charity the more extensive and beneficial, 'tis proposed, that those Parishes of *London* and *Westminster*, as shall be willing to pay for *their* Maintenance during their Continuance in the House, may send them a few Days before the End of their Time, with a proper Order and Certificate, into the said Lying-in Infirmary ; where they will be *delivered, attended, and provided with Medicines, gratis, during their Illness* : This we apprehend will be a very great Charity to such poor Objects, and a considerable Saving to each subscribing Parish, by reason these difficult and dangerous Cases require the greatest Care, and are usually attended with extraordinary Expences.

And as this Lying-in Infirmary may *reasonably* afford the *best* Opportunity of *Instruction*, in the *Art and Practice* of *Midwifry*, for the *publick* Benefit ; 'tis ordered, That an exact *Register* be always kept of the *Names and Places of Abode* of all *Persons taught or improved* in *Midwifry* at the *said Lying-in Infirmary* ; after they have received a *Certificate* from the *Physician*, of their being *duly qualified* for the *Practice* of *Midwifry*.

The CONDITIONS for Teaching Men Pupils, viz.

TEN GUINEAS to be paid at Entrance, and Five Guineas after the first *genuine* Delivery, and Five Guineas more before the *Lecture* on the Danger of using *Instruments*, and *communicating* our *Invention* for the *safe* Delivering of Women labouring of Child, in the most difficult Cases, *without the Use* of Instruments.

The Pupils ever after are free to attend all *future* Lectures.

The *Women Pupils* are taught for Ten Guineas each ; and are afterwards free to attend all *future* Lectures.

F I N I S.

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